

Busing expert says no

Houston seeks end to suit

United Press International
HOUSTON — Houston Independent School District has asked a federal court to end its 23-year-old desegregation suit by finding the system has done all it can to integrate. But a witness at a hearing has challenged the claim.

An expert Monday told U.S. District Judge Robert O'Connor Jr. in his opinion, HISD has not tried every method to achieve a fully desegregated school system. Dr. Gary Orfield cited cross-district busing as an untried approach.

Orfield, a University of Illinois

desegregation expert, said the only way to achieve full desegregation of urban systems is to require suburban districts that ring the center city to join in one desegregation plan.

"It's the first step in integration that reflects the real social composition of an urban area," said Orfield, who stopped short of specifically recommending a cross-district plan for HISD which he has not studied.

HISD Superintendent Billy Reagan has said HISD has done all it can, in view of a declining white enrollment, to desegregate its schools. He warned stronger mea-

asures could drive remaining whites out of public schools.

HISD attorney Joe Jamail charged the federal government, a plaintiff in the desegregation case, has contributed to white departure from the inner city by subsidizing housing developments like The Woodlands, north of Houston.

The community 35 miles north of the city is a white enclave of persons who work in Houston and "send their children to the Conroe Independent School District," Jamail charged.

PUC head okays Bell rate hike

United Press International
AUSTIN — The charge for coin-operated telephone calls will jump to 25 cents, and residential phone bills will increase by \$1.15 per month if the Public Utility Commission accepts recommendations of its chief hearing examiner.

Phil Ricketts, head of the PUC hearings division, has recommended the commission grant the phone company a \$137.2 million rate increase. Ricketts presided for more than a month of testimony on Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.'s \$145 million rate increase proposal.

The three-man commission is scheduled to act on the phone rate increases Nov. 9.

Ricketts' recommendations rejected consumer advocates' suggestions for holding the line on rates for measured or so-called "lifeline" service. He urged the commission to raise measured rates and the basic residential service charge \$1.15 a month. Southwestern Bell had asked for a \$1.55 a month increase.

"To make any fundamental changes in measured service while it is still under study would be inappropriate," Ricketts said.

Although he recommended raising the rates for customers who limit their calls to 25 or fewer a month, Ricketts said the measured service charge will continue to offer a savings for

consumers who do not want to pay regular residential service rates.

In addition to the \$1.15 per month increase in basic residential rates, Ricketts recommended basic business service charges increase from \$3.45 a month, rather than the \$4.65 requested by the phone company.

Ricketts said he agreed with the company that rates for many specialized business services should not be increased because of increases in those charges the commission approved last year.

"To a certain extent they're being subsidized by other services," the hearings examiner said.

San Antonio 'hippie' gang kills cowboy

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — A 15-year-old sophomore high school student, part of the school's "kicker" social clique, was kicked and beaten to death by members of rival gang known as the "Pot Heads."

School officials Tuesday called on tense students at Holmes High School to go about business in a normal manner as police investigated the gang beating and kicking death of a William "Billy" Barnett.

Homicide detective Joe Oosterveen said the youth was pummeled to death by a group of six other youths after he got off the school bus near his home Monday, apparently the victim of a feud between "kickers" at the school and an organized gang known as "Pot Heads."

Barnett was kicked and beaten by six fellow students who had been on the bus minutes before the attack occurred about 4:30 p.m., Oosterveen said.

"The only reason we know these guys wanted to attack him is that he was a 'kicker,'" the detective said.

A school official described a "kicker" as any student who was a member of the agriculture course offered at Holmes, wearing boots and other western garb.

Police said they were having problems gathering information about the case because those who saw the attackers refused to aid the investigation.

"I can understand their fear, but if they don't help us, we can't help them," Oosterveen said.

Many students appeared shocked as they strode into classes Tuesday, and school officials called on the public address system for them to put the previous day's event out of their minds and to go about their normal routine.

OSHA gets power over Post Office

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Letter carriers still may be at the mercy of rain, sleet, snow and gloom of night, but Congress is going to make sure their indoor working conditions are safe.

The House approved legislation Monday to make the U.S. Postal Service subject to the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the same as private businesses are.

The Committee on Post Office and Civil Service reported the Postal Service is riddled with job-related injuries and illnesses. The committee recommended passage of the bill in order to persuade the Postal Service to provide safer and healthier working conditions for its employees.

The measure now goes to the Senate.

Legal group claims victory in dispute of district plan

United Press International
ALICE — The Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund claims victory in a federal suit charging Jim Wells County violated the Voting Rights Act by failing to submit a 1975 reapportionment plan to the Department of Justice for review.

MALDEF officials in San Antonio said they would monitor any future redistricting in the South Texas county to ensure it is fair to minority voters.

Soviet scientists work at NASA

United Press International
HOUSTON — A group of space scientists from the Soviet Union arrived at Johnson Space Center Monday to begin 10 days of meetings with their American counterparts.

A spokesman said the 10th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Space Biology would cover biomedical results of recent space flights, results of ground-based studies and planning of future experiments.

The groups — the result of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Space Cooperation Agreement of May 24, 1972 — are led by Dr. Nikolay N. Gurovsky, Soviet minister of health, and NASA's director of life sciences, Dr. Gerald A. Sofien.

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Barbara Deo SANDWICH COOKIES 1-lb. pkg. **79¢**

Puss 'n Boots CAT FOOD 15 oz. cans **1.39**

ELECTRASOL 50 oz. box **1.39**

French's Big Taste INSTANT POTATOES 16 oz. box **69¢**

Piggly Wiggly BISCUITS 8 oz. 10 ct. cans **89¢**

Sunmaid Seedless RAISINS 15 oz. box **1.39**

Bunte Candy ORANGE SLICES 10 oz. bag **39¢**

Green Giant Frozen NIBLET CORN 10 oz. pkg. **59¢**

Banquet Frozen MINI-FRUIT PIES 8 oz. 3 pks. **1.00**

Banquet Frozen POT PIES Chicken, Turkey, or Beef 8 oz. 4 ctns. **1.00**

US #1 Russets POTATOES

10¢ lb. bag

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